

REMARKS

The Office Action dated January 26, 2006, has been carefully considered. Claims 1-30 are pending. Claims 1, 5, 12, 15 and 21 have been amended to recite a side-loadable housing, and wherein the hopper is side-loaded into the housing, as shown in FIGS. 15 and 19. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that Claims 23-27 have been allowed. Applicant requests that the Examiner consider the above amendments and the following remarks, and pass the application to allowance.

35. U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 12, 15, and 19-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ozawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,332,680).

Claim 12 as amended recites a receptacle adapted to receive a disk from a conveyor surface comprising: a side-loadable housing comprising a guide member, at least one support member, and a base member; a removable hopper adapted to receive the disk from the guide member, the hopper comprising a spindle attachable to a base, wherein the spindle is adapted to receive a plurality of disks from the guide member, and wherein the hopper is side-loaded into the housing; and wherein the guide member guides the disk from the conveyor surface onto the spindle. (Emphasis added).

Claim 15 as amended recites A receptacle adapted to receive a disk from a conveyor surface comprising: a side-loadable housing comprising a guide member, at least one support member, and a base member, wherein the guide member includes a plate like member having a circular opening adapted to guide the disk into a hopper; a removable hopper adapted to receive the disk from the guide member, the hopper comprising a spindle attachable to a base, wherein the spindle is adapted to receive a plurality of disks from the guide member, and wherein the hopper is side-loaded into the housing. (Emphasis added).

Claim 21 as amended recites an in-line marking system comprising: a dispenser for dispensing a markable medium, the markable medium having a central hole; a conveyor belt assembly for receiving the medium and conveying the medium from a first position to a second position; a marking device located between the first

position and the second position for marking indicia on the medium; and a receptacle adapted to accept the medium after marking, the receptacle comprising: a side-loadable housing adapted to receive the medium from the conveyor belt assembly, the housing having a guide member, at least one support member, and a base member; and a removable hopper adapted to receive the medium from the guide member, the hopper comprising a spindle attachable to a base, wherein the spindle is adapted to receive a plurality of mediums from the guide member, and wherein the hopper is side-loaded into the housing. (Emphasis added).

Ozawa relates to a printing apparatus having an ink-jet printer, a reciprocating medium tray for conveying a medium to be printed by the printer, a medium feeding mechanism, and a medium retrieving mechanism. The medium retrieving section 61 comprises a cartridge type medium cylinder 611, and an outer case 612 for removably accommodating the medium storage cylinder 611. As shown in FIG. 4, as described in the specification, "[t]he medium storage cylinder 611 can be removably inserted into the space defined by the cylinder guides 619 from above." Col. 6, lines 39-41. (Emphasis added).

In contrast to the features as recited in Claims 12, 15, and 19, Ozawa does not teach or suggest a side-loadable housing, and wherein the hopper is side-loaded into the housing. Accordingly, Claims 12, 15 and 21 should be allowable. Claims 19 and 20 are dependent from Claim 12, and should also be allowable for the reason set forth as to Claim 12.

35 U.S.C. § 103:

Claims 1-2, 5, 9-11, 13, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ozawa in view of Wolfer et al. (USPN 6,123,020).

Claim 1 as amended recites A receptacle adapted to receive a disk from a conveyor surface comprising: a side-loadable housing comprising a guide member, at least one support member, and a base member; a removable hopper adapted to receive the disk from the guide member, the hopper comprising a plurality of posts affixed to a base, a platform adapted to receive the disk from the guide member, and an elastic body positioned between the base and the platform, and wherein the

hopper is side-loaded into the housing; and wherein the guide member guides the disk from the conveyor surface into the hopper. (Emphasis added).

Claim 5 as amended recites a receptacle adapted to receive a disk from a conveyor surface comprising: a side-loadable housing comprising a guide member, at least one support member, and a base member, wherein the guide member comprises a plate like member having a circular opening adapted to guide the disk into a hopper; and a removable hopper adapted to receive the disk from the guide member, the hopper comprising a plurality of posts affixed to a base, a platform adapted to receive the disk from the guide member, and an elastic body positioned between the base and the platform, and wherein the hopper is side-loaded into the housing. (Emphasis added).

Wolfer et al. (Wolfer) relates to a disk dispenser to dispense memory storage disks including CD's and the like to a printer. The two guide members (upper guide 60 and lower guide 62) are axially offset from each other so a portion of the rim of the lower guide stops the disks, which may fall through the upper guide towards the lower guide. Col. 4, lines 3-6. Wolfer, however, does not teach or suggest a guide member, which guides the disk from the conveyer surface into the hopper. In fact, in Wolfer, the guide members are configured to separate a single disk from a stack of disks. Col. 3, lines 64-65.

In addition, as set forth above, as recited in Claims 1 and 5, Ozawa does not teach or suggest a side-loadable housing, and wherein the hopper is side-loaded into the housing. Accordingly, Claims 1, and 5 should be allowable. Claims 2, 9-11, 13, and 22 are dependent from Claims 1, 12 or 21 and for the reasons set forth above as to those claims, Claims 2, 9-11, 13 and 22 should be allowable.

Claims 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ozawa in view of Wolfer et al. as applied to Claim 1 above, further in view of Pottier (U.S. Patent No. 6,494,309).

Claims 3 and 4 are dependent from Claim 1 and should be allowable for the reasons set forth above as to Claim 1.

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ozawa and Wolfer as applied to Claim 1 above, in view of Dinh et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,312,522).

Claim 8 is dependent from Claim 1 and should be allowable for the reasons set forth above as to Claim 1.

Claims 6, 7, 16, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ozawa as applied to Claims 5 and 15 above, and further in view of Wolfer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,123,020).

Claims 6, 7, 16 and 17 are dependent from Claims 5 and 15 and should be allowable for the reasons set forth above as to Claim 5 and 15.

Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ozawa as applied to Claim 12 above, in view of Pottier.

Claim 14 is dependent from Claim 12 and should be allowable for the reasons set forth above as to Claim 12.

Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ozawa as applied to Claim 12 above, in view of Dinh et al.

Claim 18 is dependent from Claim 12 and should be allowable for the reasons set forth above as to Claim 12.

Claims 28-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ozawa as applied to Claim 21 above, further in view of Gelardi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,527,500).

Claims 28-30 are dependent from Claim 21 and for the reasons set forth above as to Claim 21 should be allowable.

Conclusion:

It is respectfully submitted that Claims 1-30 are presently in condition for immediate allowance, and such action is requested. If, however, any matters remain that could be clarified by Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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